

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 /017 W

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P R 151720Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBSSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

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FOR ICS, IEU, STATE FOR EUR/SOV, CU/EE; P&C/LENINGRAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL SEMINARS

REF: MOSCOW 14370

1. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER CALLED EMBOFF SEPT 13 TO ASK ABOUT CANCELLED USIA-USA INSTITUTE SEMINARS. SHIPLER SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON BELIEVE IT IS HIS FATHER-IN-LAW IN US WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS AND THEN "UNINVITED". ACCORDING TO SHIPLER, THE EX-PARTICIPANT SAID USIA HAD CALLED TO INFORM HIM THAT USA INSTITUTE REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH USIA AND THERFORE SEMINARS WERE BEING CANCELLED ENTIRELY.

2. EMBOFF INFORMED SHIPLER THAT WE HAD IN FACT APPROACHED USA INSTITUTE FOR CONSIDERABLE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE AND THAT INSTITUTE HAD INDICATED THEIR INABILITY TO COOPERATE TO EXTENT ORIGINALLY OUTLINED BY EMBASSY. SHIPLER TOLD THAT WE NOW CONSIDERING OTHER WAYS TO HOLD SEMINARS, POSSIBLY DIFFERENT FORMAT, BUT ENTIRE IDEA DEFINITELY NOT BEING SCRUBBED.

3. CAO REASSURED SHIPLER SEPT 14 BY EXPLAINING THAT EFFORTS
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UNDERWAY FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH USA-USSR INSTITUTE

FOR HIGH-QUALITY 3-DAY SEMINAR TO BE FOLLOWED BY LESS
FORMAL INTERCHANGE BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN SPECIALISTS.
HAVE PROMISED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED AND ASSUME HE WILL
SIT ON ANY POSSIBLE STORY EMANTING FROM MOSCOW UNTIL
FINAL, SCENE PLAYED AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED.

4. COMMENT: POTENTIAL PUBLICITY TO USA INSTITUTE
"REJECTION" OF SEMINARS COULD WELL LEAD TO RECONSIDERATION
OF HOUSEOF FRIENDSHIP'S TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCE OF
REVISED PROGRAM.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW14564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760348-0426
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760958/aaaabxqw.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 14370
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BICENTENNIAL SEMINARS
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006